Application No.: 09/733, 868 Docket No.: INQ-001RCE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system during said Power On Self Test, said method comprising the steps of:

initiating said Power On Self Test;

retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location during said Power On Self Test, said designated persistent storage medium separate from a storage medium holding said BIOS;

creating a time interval between the completion of said Power On Self Test and a commencement of the loading of an operating system for said computer system;

displaying said selected content to said user during at least part of ~~the remainder of~~ said Power On Self Test and during at least part the created time interval;

updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of ~~said Power On Self Test~~the loading of the operating system; and

displaying the updated selected content to a user during at least part of the next execution of said Power On Self Test and a subsequent created time interval between the completion of said Power On Self Test and a commencement of the loading of an operating system for said computer system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurs by automatically transferring said selected content from a second persistent storage medium to said designated persistent storage medium location.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurs by transferring said selected content from a second persistent storage medium to said designated persistent storage medium location in response to a request from said user.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system during said Power On Self Test, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~initiating said Power On Self Test;~~

~~retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location during said Power On Self Test;~~

~~displaying said selected content to said user during the remainder of said Power On Self Test;~~

~~updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of said Power On Self Test,~~ said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurs~~ing~~ by automatically transferring said selected content from a remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location~~; and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user during the next execution of said Power On Self Test~~.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurs by transferring said selected content from a remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location in response to a request from said user.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing a process on said computer system to poll a remote location for updated content;

transferring a portion of said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location over an established network connection, said transfer occurring in response to polling from said process, said polling occurring based on past polling history from said process to said remote location;

determining the effective bandwidth available to said transfer, and

predicting the effective bandwidth available to future transfers of said updated content based on the history of transfers from said remote location to said persistent storage medium and the results of the transfer of said portion of said updated content;

computing the time interval to wait until the transfer of the next portion of said updated content to said designated persistent storage medium location based on said predicted future bandwidth; and

transferring said next portion of said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium, the size of said next portion based on said predicted future bandwidth.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said computer system; and

comparing said CPU usage of said computer system against a pre-determined parameter prior to determining the available bandwidth of said network connection.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said computer system;

comparing said CPU usage of said computer system against a pre-determined parameter;

establishing a connection between said computer system and said remote location containing updated content when said CPU usage is below said parameter; and

transferring said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location using said connection.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said computer system;

comparing said CPU usage of said computer system against a pre-determined parameter; and

transferring said updated content from a second persistent storage medium to said designated persistent storage medium location

Application No.: 09/733, 868 Docket No.: INQ-001RCE

10. (Currently Amended) ~~In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system during said Power On Self Test, said method comprising the steps of:~~ The method of claim 1 wherein

~~initiating said Power On Self Test;~~

~~retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location during said Power On Self Test;~~

~~displaying~~ said selected content displayed to said user ~~during the remainder of said Power On Self Test; said displayed selected content being~~ is retrieved based upon a user profile containing information about the individual user;

~~updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of said Power On Self Test; and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user during the next execution of said Power On Self Test~~.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: ~~In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system during said Power On Self Test, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~initiating said Power On Self Test;~~

querying said user during said Power On Self Test;

~~retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location during said Power On Self Test;~~

displaying said selected content to said user ~~during the remainder of said Power On Self Test; the displayed selected content~~ based upon the responses from said user to said queryies;

~~updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of said Power On Self Test, and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user during the next execution of said Power On Self Test~~.

14. (Currently Amended) In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system, said method comprising the steps of:

executing said Power On Self Test;

creating a time interval between the completion of said Power On Self Test and a commencement of the loading of an operating system for said computer system;

retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading ~~an~~ the operating system for said computer system into memory, said designated persistent storage medium separate from a storage medium holding said BIOS;

displaying said selected content to said user ~~in an~~during said created time interval following the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading ~~an~~ the operating system for said computer system into memory;

updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory; and

displaying the updated selected content to a user during an interval between the next execution of said Power On Self Test and next commencement of the loading of ~~an~~ the operating system for said computer system into memory.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurs by automatically transferring said selected content from a second persistent storage medium to said designated persistent storage medium location.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurs by transferring said selected content from a second persistent storage medium to said designated persistent storage medium location in response to a request from said user.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein ~~In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~executing said Power On Self Test;~~

~~retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading an operating system for said computer system into memory ;~~

~~displaying said selected content to said user in an interval following the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading an operating system for said computer system into memory;~~

~~updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory;~~

said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurrsing by automatically transferring said selected content from a remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location; ~~and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user during an interval between the next execution of said Power On Self Test and next loading of an operating system for said computer system into memory.~~

18. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurs by transferring said selected content from a remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location in response to a request from said user.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

providing a process on said computer system to poll a remote location for updated content;

transferring a portion of said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location over an established network connection, said

transfer occurring in response to polling from said process, said polling occurring based on past polling history from said process to said remote location;

determining the effective bandwidth available to said transfer, and

predicting the effective bandwidth available to future transfers of said updated content based on the history of transfers from said remote location to said persistent storage medium and the results of the transfer of said portion of said updated content;

C1

computing the time interval to wait until the transfer of the next portion of said updated content to said designated persistent storage medium location based on said predicted future bandwidth; and

transferring said next portion of said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium, the size of said next portion based on said predicted future bandwidth.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said computer system; and

comparing said CPU usage of said computer system against a pre-determined parameter prior to determining the available bandwidth of said network connection.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said computer system;

comparing said CPU usage of said computer system against a pre-determined parameter;

establishing a connection between said computer system and said remote location containing updated content when said CPU usage is below said parameter; and

transferring said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location using said connection.

22. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said computer system;

comparing said CPU usage of said computer system against a pre-determined parameter; and

transferring said updated content from a second persistent storage medium to said designated persistent storage medium location.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 ~~In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~executing said Power On Self Test;~~

~~retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading an operating system for said computer system into memory;~~

~~displaying said selected content to said user in an interval following the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading an operating system for said computer system into memory,~~ wherein the selected content displayed to said user is retrieved based upon a user profile containing information about the individual user~~;~~

~~updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory; and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user during the next execution of said Power On Self Test~~.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, comprising the further steps of: ~~In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~executing said Power On Self Test;~~

querying said user during said Power On Self Test; and

~~retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading an operating system for said computer system into memory ;~~

displaying said selected content to said user ~~in an~~during said created interval ~~following the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading an operating system for said~~

~~computer system into memory, said displayed content~~ based upon the responses from said user to said queries~~;~~

~~updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory;and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user during an interval between the next execution of said Power On Self Test and next loading of an operating system for said computer system into memory~~.

27. (Currently Amended) In an electronic device, a method for displaying selected content to a user of said electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving selected content from a selected persistent storage medium location prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory;

creating a time interval by delaying the loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory;

displaying said selected content to said user ~~prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory~~during said time interval;

updating the selected content stored in said selected persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory, said updating occurring by automatically transferring said selected content from a second persistent storage medium to said designated persistent storage medium location without user input; and

displaying the updated selected content to a user during a created time interval prior to ~~the~~ a commencement of the next loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory.

28-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein ~~In an electronic device, a method for displaying selected content to a user of said electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~retrieving selected content from a selected persistent storage medium location prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory;~~

~~displaying said selected content to said user prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory;~~

updating the selected content stored in said selected persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory~~, said updating occuring~~ occurs by automatically transferring said selected content from a remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location~~.; and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user prior to the next loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory~~.

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31. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein said updating of the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location occurs by transferring said selected content from a remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location in response to a request from said user.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising the steps of:

providing a process on said electronic device to poll a remote location for updated content;

transferring a portion of said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location over an established network connection, said transfer occurring in response to polling from said process, said polling occurring based on past polling history from said process to said remote location;

determining the effective bandwidth available to said transfer, and

predicting the effective bandwidth available to future transfers of said updated content based on the history of transfers from said remote location to said persistent storage medium and the results of the transfer of said portion of said updated content;

computing the time interval to wait until the transfer of the next portion of said updated content to said designated persistent storage medium location based on said predicted future bandwidth; and

transferring said next portion of said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium, the size of said next portion based on said predicted future bandwidth.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said electronic device; and

comparing said CPU usage of said electronic device against a pre-determined parameter prior to determining the available bandwidth of said network connection.

C1

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said electronic device;

~~comparing said CPU usage of said electronic device against a pre-determined parameter;~~

establishing a connection between said electronic device and a remote location containing updated content when said CPU usage is below said parameter; and

transferring said updated content from said remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location using said connection.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising the steps of:

determining the central processing unit (CPU) usage of said electronic device;

comparing said CPU usage of said electronic device against a pre-determined parameter; and

transferring said updated content from a second persistent storage medium to said designated persistent storage medium location.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein ~~In an electronic device, a method for displaying selected content to a user of said electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~retrieving selected content from a selected persistent storage medium location prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory;~~

~~displaying said selected content to said user prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory,~~ the displayed selected content is ~~being~~ retrieved based upon a user profile containing information about the individual user;

~~updating the selected content stored in said selected persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory; and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user prior to the next loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory~~.

37-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 further ~~In an electronic device, a method for displaying selected content to a user of said electronic device, said method~~ comprising the steps of:

querying said user prior to loading ~~an~~ saidoperating system for said electronic device;

~~retrieving selected content from a selected persistent storage medium location prior to loading said operating system into memory;~~

displaying ~~said selected content to said user prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory, the displayed~~ said content based upon the responses from said user to said queries~~; and~~

~~updating the selected content stored in said selected persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory; and~~

~~displaying the updated selected content to a user prior to the next loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory~~.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein said electronic device is a computer system.

41. (Currently Amended) In an electronic device, a medium holding executable steps for a method for displaying selected content to a user of said electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving selected content from a selected persistent storage medium location prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory;

creating a time interval by delaying the loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory;

displaying said selected content to said user ~~prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory~~during said time interval;

updating the selected content stored in said selected persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory, said updating occuring by automatically transferring said selected content from a remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location; and

displaying the updated selected content to a user during a created time interval prior to the commencement of the next loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory.

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42. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 41 wherein said electronic device is a computer system.

43. (Currently Amended) In an electronic device, a medium holding executable steps for a method for displaying selected content to a user of said electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving selected content from a selected persistent storage medium location prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory;

creating a time interval by delaying the loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory;

displaying said selected content to said user ~~prior to loading an operating system for said electronic device into memory~~during said time interval;

updating the selected content stored in said selected persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory, said updating occuring by transferring said selected content from a remote location to said designated persistent storage medium location in response to a request from a user; and

displaying the updated selected content to a user during a created time interval prior to the commencement of the next loading of an operating system for said electronic device into memory.

44. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 43 wherein said electronic device is a computer system.

45. (Currently Amended) In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), and a medium holding executable steps for a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system during said Power On Self Test, said method comprising the steps of:

initiating said Power On Self Test;

creating a time interval between the completion of said Power On Self Test and a commencement of the loading of an operating system for said computer system;

retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location during said Power On Self Test, said designated persistent storage medium not holding said BIOS;

displaying said selected content to said user during at least part of ~~the remainder of~~ said Power On Self Test and during at least part of the created time interval;

updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of ~~said Power On Self Test~~the loading of the operating system; and

displaying the updated selected content to a user during at least part of the next execution of said Power On Self Test and a subsequent created time interval between the completion of said Power On Self Test and a commencement of the loading of an operating system for said computer system.

46. (Currently Amended) In a computer system, said system including a Basic Input Output System (BIOS), said BIOS including a Power On Self Test (POST), and a medium holding executable steps for a method for displaying selected content to a user of said system, said method comprising the steps of:

executing said Power On Self Test;

creating a time interval between the completion of said Power On Self Test and a commencement of the loading of an operating system for said computer system;

retrieving selected content from a designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading ~~an~~ the operating system for said computer system into memory, said designated persistent storage medium not holding said BIOS;

displaying said selected content to said user ~~in an~~during said created time interval following the completion of said Power On Self Test and prior to loading ~~an~~ the operating system for said computer system into memory;

updating the selected content stored in said designated persistent storage medium location subsequent to the completion of loading said operating system into memory; and

displaying the updated selected content to a user during an interval between the next execution of said Power On Self Test and next commencement of the loading of ~~an~~ the operating system for said computer system into memory.